

# City News

The Newsletter of the  
City of Veneta

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## Neighborhood Watch Growing in Veneta

With encouragement and support from the City and Lane County Sheriff's Office, the Neighborhood Watch Program is making a comeback in Veneta. Already, groups are canvassing four neighborhoods, either on foot or from vehicles. LCSO Sgt. Billy Halvorson hopes that number will continue to grow.

"The overall goal of a Neighborhood Watch Group is to encourage cooperation between the community and the police to help fight and prevent crime," said Halvorson. "The emphasis is on getting to know your neighbor and knowing what's going on in your neighborhood." Halvorson said groups develop organically based on the individual preference of participants. Some want to cover a three-block radius, where others may watch an entire subdivision. The Sheriff's office helps get the groups started following the National Neighborhood Watch Model.

Once a group determines how big of an area it will cover, members can decide how often to meet, what type of patrols to do, and create schedules. Each group is a little different. The Shalimar Trailer Park Watch Group, for instance, conducts scheduled foot patrols. Groups covering larger areas have magnetic decals on their vehicles and conduct "observe and report" patrols from their cars. "If they see something that needs to be reported, they can

call directly to the Sheriff's office," said Halvorson. "In life threatening situations, the watch person would call 911."

As more groups are established, Halvorson aims to assign one of the four Veneta area deputies to be a liaison, he said. Then the watch groups and law enforcement would truly be working hand in hand, which is a key goal of Veneta's Community Policing initiative. To get involved, Halvorson encourages citizens to reach out. "If you happen to see someone identified as Neighborhood Watch, talk to them directly," he said. Or to learn about an existing group in your area or to form one, call Sgt. Carrie Carver of LCSO at 541 682-4179. "Carver will help to coordinate individuals and connect them with groups," said Halvorson. Though a background check is required, he said that should not keep people from getting involved. "We're not worried about a past history of DUI or a minor infraction," he said. "The background checks are to ensure that we're not letting people into the group that are going to victimize the group."

You can also learn more by visiting the City of Veneta's webpage at [www.VenetaOregon.gov](http://www.VenetaOregon.gov) or by attending one of Sgt. Halvorson's monthly meetings at the Fern Ridge Library.

## Revisiting Dangerous Animal Control

The City of Veneta is modifying its Animal Ordinance (6.05.120), proposing a system that takes into account the animal's behavior on a level system. The changes to the Ordinance will clarify the restrictions that can be imposed on animals based on their behavior and their level of threat.

According to Teresa Warrick, City of Veneta Code Enforcement Officer, the Ordinance proposes a three-level system that is based on specific types of behavior, with the definition and consequences for infractions increasing from level one through three. For instance, level one behavior is established when an animal at large, and without provocation, is found to menace or display threatening or aggressive behavior or otherwise threaten or endanger the safety of another animal, whether it be a pet or domestic livestock. A level two behavior would include that same language, but apply to an animal endangering the safety of a person. Level three would involve an animal that bites or causes physical harm to domestic animals or livestock or bites any person.

After an offending animal has had due process in Municipal Court, restrictions could be imposed based on which level of behavior the animal has displayed. "These restrictions can range from requiring the owner to keep

*See Animal page 2*

### CITY OF VENETA - CIVIC CALENDAR - JULY 2015

Veneta Administrative Center - 88184 8th Street, Veneta, Oregon

1	Veneta Park Board Meeting - City Hall	Cancelled
3	City Hall closed in Observance of Independence Day Holiday	Closed
7	Veneta Planning Commission Meeting - City Hall	7:00 p.m.
9	Zumwalt Campground Opens	2:00 p.m.
12	Zumwalt Campground Closes	11:00 p.m.
13	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall Veneta Urban Renewal Agency Meeting - Immediately following City Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
16	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
17	Night Waves Teen Party - Veneta Community Pool	8:30 p.m. to 10:00 pm.
27	Veneta City Council Meeting - City Hall	6:30 p.m.

## ***Vote for Mid Lane Cares for GREEN Power Grant***

With enough votes from EPUD GREEN Power customers, Mid Lane Cares (MLC) hopes to receive the 2015 GREEN Grant Program, which could provide as much as \$40,000 to install solar panels on the Fern Ridge Service Center (FRSC). "The panels could significantly reduce the FRSC power bill, which now runs approximately \$1,000 per month," explained Veneta City Administrator Ric Ingham. "For a small nonprofit like MLC, that could make a big difference," added Kay Bork, Director of Community Development. And, as with all MLC programs, the money saved would stay right here in the community.

"Being a nonprofit, we need all the help we can get," explained MLC Director Pat Coy. "With these panels, we hope to cut our electricity bill by about one third." Those savings would be directed to fund MLC's many programs. "That's why we're strongly encouraging people who are in EPUD's GREEN Program to vote for us!"

MLC has been serving residents of our community since the 1970s, with food and energy assistance, medical services, holiday programs, sports scholarships for youth, and much more. Located at 25035 W. Broadway, the FRSC houses the organization's senior programs, including the Meals and Senior Connections Programs; senior classes, services, and social

activities; as well as provides space for the Food Pantry.

This is just the second year that EPUD has provided its GREEN (Giving Renewable Energy to Emerald Neighborhoods) Grant to a nonprofit to help offset its use of energy. The grant requests of this year's six finalists are now posted on the EPUD website for viewing. Any visitor can review the grant applications, but only those who have signed up for GREEN Power Program may vote to select the winning project. Participants in the GREEN program support renewable energy in the region and in their own neighborhoods by paying extra on their monthly bills, according to Rob Currier, EPUD Energy Services Coordinator. "A portion of every GREEN participant's electric bills support this grant, therefore these customers will have the privilege of choosing the winner of the grant funding," he said.

"We highly encourage those who are already GREEN power customers to vote for the MLC project," said Ingham. "Or, if you've considered becoming a GREEN power customer, now might be a good time to act, so your vote will count in the final tally."

Vote now by visiting [www.epud.org](http://www.epud.org) and selecting the "GREEN Grant" tab. Voting closes on August 5, 2015.

## ***Adopted City Budget Reflects Citizen's Priorities***

The adopted budget for fiscal year (FY) 2015-16 comprises an estimated \$5.6 million of anticipated new revenue, and \$7.1 million of expected expenditures, resulting in an expected citywide ending fund balance of \$11.4, a decrease of \$1.5 million. Adopted budgets for past years reflected similar reductions in the City-wide fund balance; however, the actual results in past years have been an increase in the fund balance.

The City's short-term objective for operating funds is to have the ending fund balance be no less than four months' worth of operating expenditures plus \$100,000. This is referred to as the Minimum Fund Balance. In the long-term, the City's objective is for annual expenditures to be equal to or less than the expected new revenue. For FY 2015-16, all of the operating funds have an expected fund balance above the Minimum amount. In the long-term, however, the results are not so favorable. The funds of particular concern are the Law Enforcement Fund and the Street Fund.

Within the law enforcement budget, expenditures have exceeded new revenue since FY 2013-14. The primary revenue source is property taxes and the primary expenditure is the contract with Lane County Sheriff's Office. The cost of the contract increases between 3%-5% each year. Property taxes have increased, but at a much lower rate. A contract increase to 4.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, from 4.33 FTE makes the financial situation worse; however, it does help address Council goals and the community's desire for enhancement of law enforcement coverage.

Concerns for the the Street Fund are being exacerbated with the implementation of a six-year pavement preservation plan, which targets \$425,000 in annual expenditure. If no new revenue sources are identified, the fund balance will decrease by \$840,000 from fiscal year 2015-16 to 2020-21. The fund balance will still be slightly above the minimum target; however, there will be little money available for capital street improvements.

"When we look to the future and see how much road preservation there is to do, we see that we may fall short on income sources for improvements," explained Finance Director Shauna Hartz. "That's a long-term challenge for the City."

Other expenditures in the FY 2015-16 budget reflect the following Council goals: connecting properties to the City's sewer system, continued work to improve the downtown area and to begin implementation of the newly adopted Economic Development Strategy – Five Year Action Plan.

More specifically, money has been budgeted to design improvements to several streets that intersect with West Broadway, abate dangerous buildings, to hire a RARE student tasked with initiating the actions outlined in the strategic plan, and to take advantage of any opportunities that may arise to support commercial development. The budget also includes money for engineering work related to sidewalk connectivity, and beautification of the intersection of Highway 126 and Territorial Road.

## ***Animal: Revisiting Dangerous Animal Control***

the animal contained in a secure enclosure, to never allowing it to be off property without a leash," said Warrick. Fines could be levied if those restrictions are violated. "Our intent is to promote safe coexistence between pet owners and other citizens and to enhance public safety."

The revisions to the Ordinance have been drafted and are now being reviewed by City Council. According to Warrick, changes to the Ordinance will be proposed for adoption by the City Council at the July meeting and could go into effect immediately upon passage.